

# REMARKS ON A SCALAR CURVATURE RIGIDITY THEOREM OF BRENDLE AND MARQUES

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**ABSTRACT.** We give an improvement of a scalar curvature rigidity theorem of Brendle and Marques regarding geodesic balls in  $\mathbb{S}^n$ . The main result is that Brendle and Marques' theorem holds on a geodesic ball larger than that specified in [2].

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In a recent paper [2], Brendle and Marques proved the following theorem on scalar curvature rigidity of geodesic balls in the standard  $n$ -dimensional sphere  $\mathbb{S}^n$ .

**Theorem 1.1** (Brendle and Marques [2]). *Let  $\Omega = B(\delta) \subset \mathbb{S}^n$  be a closed geodesic ball of radius  $\delta$  with*

$$(1.1) \quad \cos \delta \geq \frac{2}{\sqrt{n+3}}.$$

*Let  $\bar{g}$  be the standard metric on  $\mathbb{S}^n$ . Suppose  $g$  is another metric on  $\Omega$  with the properties:*

- $R(g) \geq R(\bar{g})$  at each point in  $\Omega$
- $H(g) \geq H(\bar{g})$  at each point on  $\partial\Omega$
- $g$  and  $\bar{g}$  induce the same metric on  $\partial\Omega$

*where  $R(g)$ ,  $R(\bar{g})$  are the scalar curvature of  $g$ ,  $\bar{g}$ , and  $H(g)$ ,  $H(\bar{g})$  are the mean curvature of  $\partial\Omega$  in  $(\Omega, g)$ ,  $(\Omega, \bar{g})$ . If  $g - \bar{g}$  is sufficiently small in the  $C^2$ -norm, then  $\varphi^*(g) = \bar{g}$  for some diffeomorphism  $\varphi : \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$  such that  $\varphi|_{\partial\Omega} = \text{id}$ .*

Theorem 1.1 is an interesting rigidity result for domains in  $\mathbb{S}^n$  because the corresponding statement is false for  $\delta = \frac{\pi}{2}$ , which follows from the counterexample to Min-Oo's conjecture ([6]) constructed by Brendle, Marques and Neves in [3]. For an account of the connection of Theorem

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1.1 to other rigidity phenomena involving scalar curvature, readers are referred to the recent survey [1] by Brendle.

In this paper, we provide an improvement of Theorem 1.1 by showing that Theorem 1.1 is still valid on geodesic balls strictly *larger* than those specified by (1.1). Precisely, we prove that condition (1.1) in Theorem 1.1 can be replaced by either one of the following weaker conditions:

(a)  $\cos \delta > \zeta$ , where  $\zeta$  is the positive constant given by

$$\zeta^2 = \frac{4(n+4) - 4\sqrt{2n-1}}{n^2 + 6n + 17}.$$

(b)  $\cos \delta > \cos \delta_0$ , where  $\delta_0$  is the unique zero of the function

$$F(\delta) = \alpha(\delta) + \frac{(n+3)\cos^2 \delta - 4}{4\sin^2 \delta}$$

where  $\alpha(\delta) = \frac{(n+1)}{8n} \left[ 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{n}{2\mu(\delta)} \right) \cos \delta \right]^{-1}$  and  $\mu(\delta)$  is the first nonzero Neumann eigenvalue of  $B(\delta)$ . In particular,  $\delta_0$  satisfies

$$(1.2) \quad (\cos \delta_0)^2 < \frac{7n-1}{2n^2+5n-1}.$$

We compare the conditions (a) and (b). It follows from (1.2) that  $\delta_0$  in (b) satisfies

$$(1.3) \quad \limsup_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{(\cos \delta_0)^2}{\frac{4}{n+3}} \leq \frac{7}{8},$$

while in (a) one has

$$(1.4) \quad \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\frac{4(n+4) - 4\sqrt{2n-1}}{n^2 + 6n + 17}}{\frac{4}{n+3}} = 1.$$

Therefore, (b) gives a better improvement of Theorem 1.1 for large  $n$ .

For relatively small  $n$ , (a) appears to be a better condition. For instance, the constant  $\zeta$  in (a) is given by

$$(1.5) \quad \zeta \approx \begin{cases} 0.6581, & n = 3 \\ 0.6130, & n = 4 \\ 0.5774, & n = 5, \end{cases}$$

while  $\cos \delta_0$  in (b) is restricted by (see by Lemma 2.3 (iii)),

$$(1.6) \quad \cos \delta_0 > \kappa \approx \begin{cases} 0.6919, & n = 3 \\ 0.6512, & n = 4 \\ 0.6155, & n = 5. \end{cases}$$

Thus, (a) provides a better improvement of Theorem 1.1 at least for dimensions  $n = 3, 4, 5$ .

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## 2. RIGIDITY OF GEODESIC BALLS

Throughout this paper, we let  $\Omega = B(\delta) \subset \mathbb{S}^n$  be a (closed) geodesic ball of radius  $\delta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ , with boundary  $\Sigma = \partial B(\delta)$ . We denote by  $\bar{g}$  the standard metric on  $\mathbb{S}^n$ , with volume form  $d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}}$  (*resp.*  $d\sigma_{\bar{g}}$ ) on  $\Omega$  (*resp.*  $\Sigma$ ). We additionally define  $\bar{\nabla}$  and  $\Delta_{\bar{g}}$  to be the covariant derivative and Laplace operator of  $\bar{g}$ , and adopt the convention that the divergence, trace and norm (denoted by  $\text{div}(\cdot)$ ,  $\text{tr}(\cdot)$  and  $|\cdot|$ , respectively) are always computed with respect to  $\bar{g}$ .

We assume that  $g = \bar{g} + h$  is a metric close to  $\bar{g}$  (say  $|h| \leq \frac{1}{2}$  at each point in  $\Omega$ ) and that  $g$  and  $\bar{g}$  induce the same metric on  $\Sigma$ . The outward unit normal to  $\Sigma$  in  $(\Omega, \bar{g})$  is denoted by  $\bar{\nu}$ , and  $X$  is the vector field on  $\Sigma$  dual to the 1-form  $h(\cdot, \bar{\nu})|_{T(\Sigma)}$ , *i.e.*  $\bar{g}(v, X) = h(v, \bar{\nu})$  for any vector  $v$  tangent to  $\Sigma$ . Finally, for any function  $f$  and vector  $\nu$ ,  $\partial_{\nu}f$  denotes the directional derivative of  $f$  along  $\nu$ .

**2.1. Brendle and Marques' proof.** The following weighted integral estimate of  $(R(g) - R(\bar{g}))$  and  $(H(g) - H(\bar{g}))$  plays a key role in the proof of Theorem 1.1 in [2].

**Theorem 2.1** (Brendle and Marques [2]). *Let  $\Omega = B(\delta)$  and  $\lambda = \cos r$ , where  $r$  is the  $\bar{g}$ -distance to the center of  $B(\delta)$ . Assume  $\text{div}(h) = 0$  where  $h = g - \bar{g}$ . Then*

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} [R(g) - n(n-1)]\lambda \, d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} (2 - h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu}))[H(g) - H(\bar{g})]\lambda \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \left[ -\frac{1}{4}(|\bar{\nabla}h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla}(\text{tr}h)|^2) - \frac{1}{2}(|h|^2 + (\text{tr}h)^2) \right] \lambda \, d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ & \quad + \int_{\Sigma} H(\bar{g}) \left[ -\frac{1}{4}h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu})^2 - \frac{n}{2(n-1)}|X|^2 \right] \lambda \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \\ & \quad + \int_{\Sigma} \left[ -h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu})^2 - \frac{1}{2}|X|^2 \right] \partial_{\bar{\nu}}\lambda \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Omega} E(h) \, d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} F(h) \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \end{aligned}$$

where  $|E(h)| \leq C(|h|^3 + |\bar{\nabla}h|^3)$ ,  $|F(h)| \leq C(|h|^3 + |h|^2|\bar{\nabla}h|)$  for some constant  $C$  depending only on  $n$ .

To see how Theorem 1.1 follows from Theorem 2.1, one first pulls back  $g$  through a diffeomorphism  $\varphi: \Omega \rightarrow \Omega$  with  $\varphi|_{\Sigma} = \text{id}$  such that  $\varphi^*(g) - \bar{g}$  is  $\bar{g}$ -divergence free and  $\|\varphi^*(g) - \bar{g}\|_{W^{2,p}(\Omega)} \leq N\|g - \bar{g}\|_{W^{2,p}(\Omega)}$  for some  $p > n$  and  $N$  depending only on  $\Omega$  ([2, Proposition 11]).

Replacing  $g$  by  $\varphi^*(g)$ , one assumes that  $\operatorname{div}(h) = 0$ , where  $h = g - \bar{g}$  and  $\|h\|_{W^{2,p}(\Omega)}$  is small. If  $R(g) \geq n(n-1)$  and  $H(g) \geq H(\bar{g})$ , Theorem 2.1 then implies

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.1) \quad & \int_{\Omega} \left[ \frac{1}{4} (|\bar{\nabla} h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2) + \frac{1}{2} (|h|^2 + (\operatorname{tr} h)^2) \right] \lambda \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\
 & + \int_{\Sigma} h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu})^2 \left[ \frac{1}{4} H(\bar{g}) \lambda + \partial_{\bar{\nu}} \lambda \right] + |X|^2 \left[ \frac{n}{2(n-1)} H(\bar{g}) \lambda + \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\bar{\nu}} \lambda \right] d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \\
 & \leq C \|h\|_{C^1(\bar{\Omega})} \int_{\Omega} (|\bar{\nabla} h|^2 + |h|^2) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}}
 \end{aligned}$$

for a constant  $C$  independent on  $h$ . At  $\Sigma$ , direct calculation shows

$$(2.2) \quad \frac{1}{4} H(\bar{g}) \lambda + \partial_{\bar{\nu}} \lambda = \frac{(n+3) \cos^2 \delta - 4}{4 \sin \delta}$$

$$(2.3) \quad \frac{n}{2(n-1)} H(\bar{g}) \lambda + \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\bar{\nu}} \lambda = \frac{(n+1) \cos^2 \delta - 1}{2 \sin \delta}.$$

If  $\cos \delta \geq \frac{2}{\sqrt{n+3}}$ , then both quantities in (2.2) and (2.3) are nonnegative. Therefore, (2.1) implies  $h = 0$  if  $\|h\|_{C^1(\bar{\Omega})}$  is sufficiently small.

**2.2. Improvement of Theorem 1.1: approach 1.** Let  $\lambda$  and  $h$  be given as in Theorem 2.1. Define

$$\begin{aligned}
 (2.4) \quad W(h) = & \int_{\Omega} \left[ \frac{1}{4} (|\bar{\nabla} h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2) + \frac{1}{2} (|h|^2 + (\operatorname{tr} h)^2) \right] \lambda \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\
 & + \int_{\Sigma} h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu})^2 \left[ \frac{1}{4} H(\bar{g}) \lambda + \partial_{\bar{\nu}} \lambda \right] + |X|^2 \left[ \frac{n}{2(n-1)} H(\bar{g}) \lambda + \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\bar{\nu}} \lambda \right] d\sigma_{\bar{g}}.
 \end{aligned}$$

It is clear from the above Brendle and Marques' proof that Theorem 1.1 holds on a geodesic ball  $\Omega = B(\delta)$  provided one can prove

$$(2.5) \quad W(h) \geq \epsilon \int_{\Omega} (|\bar{\nabla} h|^2 + |h|^2) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}}$$

for some positive  $\epsilon$  independent on  $h$ . To show (2.5), the difficulty lies in handling the boundary integral

$$\int_{\Sigma} h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu})^2 \left[ \frac{1}{4} H(\bar{g}) \lambda + \partial_{\bar{\nu}} \lambda \right] + |X|^2 \left[ \frac{n}{2(n-1)} H(\bar{g}) \lambda + \frac{1}{2} \partial_{\bar{\nu}} \lambda \right] d\sigma_{\bar{g}}$$

which can be negative if  $\cos \delta$  is small.

**Proposition 2.1.** *Let  $h$  be any  $C^2$  symmetric  $(0,2)$  tensor on  $\Omega = B(\delta)$  with  $\operatorname{div}(h) = 0$ . Let  $c = \cos \delta$  and  $s = \sin \delta$ . Given any positive function  $w$  on  $\Omega$ , we have*

$$(2.6) \quad s \int_{\Sigma} (\operatorname{tr} h) h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu}) d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \leq \int_{\Omega} \left[ \frac{w}{2} \sqrt{1 - \lambda^2} |h|^2 + \lambda (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 + \frac{1}{2w} \sqrt{1 - \lambda^2} |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 \right] d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}}.$$

*In particular, if  $h|_{T(\Sigma)} = 0$ , then*

$$(2.7) \quad s \int_{\Sigma} h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu})^2 d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \leq \int_{\Omega} \left[ \frac{w}{2} \sqrt{1 - \lambda^2} |h|^2 + \lambda (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 + \frac{1}{2w} \sqrt{1 - \lambda^2} |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 \right] d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}}.$$

*Proof.* Let  $\omega$  be the 1-form on  $\Omega$  given by

$$\omega_k = (\operatorname{tr} h) h_{ik} \bar{\nabla}^i \lambda.$$

Using the fact  $\bar{\nabla}_k \bar{\nabla}^i \lambda = -\lambda \delta_k^i$  and the assumption  $\operatorname{div}(h) = 0$ , we have

$$\bar{\nabla}^k \omega_k = -\lambda (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 + h(\bar{\nabla} \lambda, \bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)).$$

At  $\Sigma$ ,  $\omega(\bar{\nu}) = -s(\operatorname{tr} h) h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu})$ . It follows from the divergence theorem

$$(2.8) \quad s \int_{\Sigma} (\operatorname{tr} h) h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu}) d\sigma_{\bar{g}} = \int_{\Omega} [\lambda (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 - h(\bar{\nabla} \lambda, \bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h))] d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}}.$$

Given any positive function  $w$  on  $\Omega$ , using the fact  $|\bar{\nabla} \lambda|^2 = 1 - \lambda^2$ , we have

$$(2.9) \quad \begin{aligned} -h(\bar{\nabla} \lambda, \bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)) &\leq |\bar{\nabla} \lambda| |h| |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)| \\ &\leq \sqrt{1 - \lambda^2} \left[ \frac{w}{2} |h|^2 + \frac{1}{2w} |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, (2.6) follows from (2.8) and (2.9). If  $h|_{T(\Sigma)} = 0$ ,  $h(\bar{\nu}, \bar{\nu}) = \operatorname{tr} h$  at  $\Sigma$ . Therefore, (2.6) implies (2.7).  $\square$

**Theorem 2.2.** *Let  $\delta$  be a constant in  $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$ . Suppose  $\cos \delta > \zeta$ , where  $\zeta$  is the positive constant given by*

$$(2.10) \quad \zeta^2 = \begin{cases} \frac{2}{n+1} & \text{if } n \leq 4 \\ \frac{4(n+4) - 4\sqrt{2n-1}}{n^2 + 6n + 17} & \text{if } n \geq 5. \end{cases}$$

*Then the conclusion of Theorem 1.1 holds on  $B(\delta)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $c = \cos \delta$ . Note that (2.10) implies  $c^2 \geq \frac{1}{n+1}$ , hence the coefficient of  $|X|^2$  in (2.4) is nonnegative. By Theorem 1.1, it suffices

to assume  $c^2 < \frac{4}{n+3}$ . Choosing  $w = \sqrt{2}$  in Proposition 2.1, we have

(2.11)

$$\begin{aligned} W(h) \geq & \int_{\Omega} \left[ \frac{1}{4} (|\bar{\nabla} h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2) + \frac{1}{2} (|h|^2 + (\operatorname{tr} h)^2) \right] \lambda \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ & + \frac{(n+3)c^2 - 4}{4(1-c^2)} \sqrt{2(1-c^2)} \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{2} |h|^2 + \frac{1}{4} |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 \right) d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ & + \frac{(n+3)c^2 - 4}{4(1-c^2)} \int_{\Omega} \lambda (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}}. \end{aligned}$$

We seek conditions on  $c$  such that

$$(2.12) \quad c + \frac{(n+3)c^2 - 4}{4(1-c^2)} \sqrt{2(1-c^2)} > 0$$

and

$$(2.13) \quad \frac{1}{2} + \frac{(n+3)c^2 - 4}{4(1-c^2)} \geq 0.$$

Direct calculation shows that (2.12) (under the assumption  $c^2 < \frac{4}{n+3}$ ) is equivalent to

$$(2.14) \quad c^2 > \frac{4(n+4) - 4\sqrt{2n-1}}{n^2 + 6n + 17}$$

and (2.13) is equivalent to

$$(2.15) \quad c^2 \geq \frac{2}{n+1}.$$

Since

$$(2.16) \quad \frac{4(n+4) - 4\sqrt{2n-1}}{n^2 + 6n + 17} \geq \frac{2}{n+1}$$

precisely when  $n \geq 5$ , we conclude that (2.5) holds for some  $\epsilon > 0$  if (2.10) is satisfied. Theorem 2.2 is proved.  $\square$

Theorem 2.2 verifies condition (a) in the introduction for  $n \geq 5$ . The remaining case  $n = 3, 4$  in condition (a) will be verified in section 2.4.

**2.3. Improvement of Theorem 1.1: approach 2.** In this section, we give a different approach to estimate the boundary integral of  $(\operatorname{tr} h)^2$  in  $W(h)$  in terms of the interior integral in  $W(h)$ . To do so, we use the linearization of the scalar curvature (2.17). Noticing that the integral of  $\operatorname{tr} h$  over  $B(\delta)$  is close to zero, we apply the Poincaré inequality through an estimate of the first nonzero Neumann eigenvalue of  $B(\delta)$  in [5].

**Lemma 2.1.** *Let  $\Omega \subset \mathbb{S}^n$  be a closed domain with smooth boundary  $\Sigma$ . Let  $\bar{g}$  be the standard metric on  $\mathbb{S}^n$  and  $g = \bar{g} + h$  be another smooth metric on  $\Omega$  such that  $g, \bar{g}$  induce the same metric on  $\Sigma$  and  $\operatorname{div} h = 0$ . Suppose  $|h|$  is very small, say  $|h| \leq \frac{1}{2}$  at every point.*

(i) *Given any smooth function  $f$  on  $\Omega$ , one has*

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_{\Omega} f(\operatorname{tr} h) \Delta_{\bar{g}}(\operatorname{tr} h) + (n-1)f(\operatorname{tr} h)^2 \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ &= \int_{\Omega} f(\operatorname{tr} h) [R(\bar{g}) - R(g)] \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + E(h, f) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$|E(h, f)| \leq C \|f\|_{C^1(\bar{\Omega})} \left( \int_{\Omega} (|h|^3 + |\bar{\nabla} h|^3) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} |h|^2 |\bar{\nabla} h| \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right)$$

for a positive constant  $C$  depending only on  $(\Omega, \bar{g})$ .

(ii)

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Omega} (\operatorname{tr} h) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} &= -\frac{1}{n-1} \left( \int_{\Omega} [R(g) - R(\bar{g})] \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2 \int_{\Sigma} [H(g) - H(\bar{g})] \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right) + F(h) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$|F(h)| \leq C \left( \int_{\Omega} (|h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla} h|^2) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} (|h|^2 + |h| |\bar{\nabla} h|) \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right)$$

for a positive constant  $C$  depending only on  $(\Omega, \bar{g})$ .

*Proof.* Since  $\operatorname{div}(h) = 0$  and  $\operatorname{Ric}(\bar{g}) = (n-1)\bar{g}$ ,  $h$  satisfies

$$(2.17) \quad -\Delta_{\bar{g}}(\operatorname{tr} h) - (n-1)(\operatorname{tr} h) = DR_{\bar{g}}(h),$$

where  $DR_{\bar{g}}(\cdot)$  denotes the linearization of the scalar curvature at  $\bar{g}$ . By [2, Proposition 4] (also see [5, Lemma 2.1]), one knows

$$\begin{aligned} (2.18) \quad R(g) - R(\bar{g}) &= DR_{\bar{g}}(h) - \frac{1}{2} DR_{\bar{g}}(h^2) + \langle h, \bar{\nabla}^2(\operatorname{tr} h) \rangle \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4} (|\bar{\nabla} h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr}_{\bar{g}} h)|^2) + \frac{1}{2} h^{ij} h^{kl} \bar{R}_{ikjl} \\ &\quad + E(h) + \bar{\nabla}_i(E_1^i(h)) \end{aligned}$$

where  $E(h)$  is a function and  $E_1(h)$  is a vector field on  $\Omega$  satisfying

$$|E(h)| \leq C(|h| |\bar{\nabla} h|^2 + |h|^3), \quad |E_1(h)| \leq C|h|^2 |\bar{\nabla} h|$$

for a positive constant  $C$  depending only on  $n$ . Multiplying (2.17) by  $f(\operatorname{tr} h)$  and integrating by parts, (i) follows from (2.18).

To prove (ii), we integrate (2.17) on  $\Omega$  to get

$$(2.19) \quad -(n-1) \int_{\Omega} (\operatorname{tr} h) d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} = \int_{\Omega} DR_{\bar{g}}(h) d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} \partial_{\bar{\nu}}(\operatorname{tr} h) d\sigma_{\bar{g}}.$$

Let  $DH_{\bar{g}}(h)$  denote the linearization of the mean curvature of  $\Sigma$  at  $\bar{g}$ . Direct calculation (see [2, Proposition 5] or [4, (34)]) shows

$$(2.20) \quad 2DH_{\bar{g}}(h) = \partial_{\bar{\nu}}(\operatorname{tr} h) - \operatorname{div} h(\bar{\nu}) - \operatorname{div}_{\Sigma} X.$$

Since  $\operatorname{div}(h) = 0$ , (2.20) implies

$$(2.21) \quad \int_{\Sigma} \partial_{\bar{\nu}}(\operatorname{tr} h) d\sigma_{\bar{g}} = 2 \int_{\Sigma} DH_{\bar{g}}(h) d\sigma_{\bar{g}}.$$

By [2, Proposition 5], one has

$$(2.22) \quad |H(g) - H(\bar{g}) - DH_{\bar{g}}(h)| \leq C(|h|^2 + |h||\bar{\nabla} h|)$$

for a positive constant  $C$  depending only on  $n$ . (ii) now follows from (2.18)-(2.22) and integration by parts on  $\Omega$ .  $\square$

We will make use of the first nonzero Neumann eigenvalue of  $B(\delta)$ , which we denote by  $\mu(\delta)$ . The next lemma on  $\mu(\delta)$  was proved in [5, Lemma 3.1].

**Lemma 2.2** ([5]). *Let  $\mu(\delta)$  be the first nonzero Neumann eigenvalue of  $B(\delta)$  (with respect to  $\bar{g}$ ). Then*

- (i)  $\mu(\delta)$  is a strictly decreasing function of  $\delta$  on  $(0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ ;
- (ii) for any  $0 < \delta < \frac{\pi}{2}$ ,

$$\mu(\delta) > n + \frac{(\sin \delta)^{n-2} \cos \delta}{\int_0^{\delta} (\sin t)^{n-1} dt} > \frac{n}{(\sin \delta)^2}.$$

Using  $\mu(\delta)$ , we have the following estimate of  $\int_{\Sigma} (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 d\sigma_{\bar{g}}$ .

**Proposition 2.2.** *Let  $\Omega = B(\delta)$  and  $\mu(\delta)$  be the first nonzero Neumann eigenvalue of  $B(\delta)$ . Let  $g = \bar{g} + h$  be a smooth metric on  $B(\delta)$  such that  $g, \bar{g}$  induce the same metric on  $\Sigma$  and  $\operatorname{div}(h) = 0$ . Suppose  $|h|$  is*



small, say  $|h| \leq \frac{1}{2}$  at every point. Let  $c = \cos \delta$  and  $s = \sin \delta$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} s \int_{\Sigma} (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 d\sigma_{\bar{g}} &\leq 2 \left[ 1 - c \left( 1 - \frac{n}{2\mu(\delta)} \right) \right] \int_{\Omega} \lambda |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ &\quad - 2 \int_{\Omega} (\lambda - c)(\operatorname{tr} h)(R(g) - R(\bar{g})) d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ &\quad + C \|h\|_{C^1} \left[ \int_{\Omega} (|h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla} h|^2) d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} |h|^2 d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right] \\ &\quad + C \left[ \int_{\Omega} (R(g) - R(\bar{g})) d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + 2 \int_{\Sigma} (H(g) - H(\bar{g})) d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right]^2 \end{aligned}$$

for some positive constant  $C$  depending only on  $(\Omega, \bar{g})$  and  $c$ .

*Proof.* Integrating by parts, using the fact  $\lambda = c$  at  $\Sigma$  and  $\Delta_{\bar{g}}\lambda = -n\lambda$  on  $\Omega$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} (2.23) \quad \int_{\Sigma} (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 \partial_{\bar{\nu}} \lambda d\sigma_{\bar{g}} &= \int_{\Omega} (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 \Delta_{\bar{g}} \lambda - (\lambda - c) \Delta_{\bar{g}} (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ &= \int_{\Omega} -n\lambda (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 - 2(\lambda - c) [(\operatorname{tr} h) \Delta_{\bar{g}} (\operatorname{tr} h) + |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2] d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}}. \end{aligned}$$

Choosing  $f = \lambda - c$  in Lemma 2.1(i), we have

$$\begin{aligned} (2.24) \quad &\int_{\Omega} (\lambda - c)(\operatorname{tr} h) \Delta_{\bar{g}} (\operatorname{tr} h) d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ &= \int_{\Omega} -(n-1)(\lambda - c)(\operatorname{tr} h)^2 - (\lambda - c)(\operatorname{tr} h) [R(g) - R(\bar{g})] d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + E_2(h) \end{aligned}$$

where

$$|E_2(h)| \leq C \left( \int_{\Omega} (|h|^3 + |\bar{\nabla} h|^3) d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} |h|^2 |\bar{\nabla} h| d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right)$$

for some constant  $C$  depending on  $(\Omega, \bar{g})$  and  $c$ . It follows from (2.23) and (2.24) that

$$\begin{aligned} (2.25) \quad \int_{\Sigma} (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 \partial_{\bar{\nu}} \lambda d\sigma_{\bar{g}} &= \int_{\Omega} [(n-2)(\operatorname{tr} h)^2 - 2|\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2] \lambda d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ &\quad + 2c \int_{\Omega} [|\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 - (n-1)(\operatorname{tr} h)^2] d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ &\quad + 2 \int_{\Omega} (\lambda - c)(\operatorname{tr} h) [R(g) - R(\bar{g})] d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} - 2E_2(h). \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\lambda \geq c$  on  $\Omega$ , (2.25) implies

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\Sigma} (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 \partial_{\bar{v}} \lambda \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} &\geq -2 \int_{\Omega} |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 \lambda \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + 2c \int_{\Omega} \left[ |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 - \frac{n}{2} (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 \right] \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ &\quad + 2 \int_{\Omega} (\lambda - c) (\operatorname{tr} h) [R(g) - R(\bar{g})] \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} - 2E_2(h). \end{aligned}$$

By the variational characterization of  $\mu(\delta)$ , we have

(2.26)

$$\int_{\Omega} |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \geq \mu(\delta) \left[ \left( \int_{\Omega} (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \right) - \frac{1}{V(\bar{g})} \left( \int_{\Omega} (\operatorname{tr} h) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \right)^2 \right]$$

where  $V(\bar{g}) = \int_{\Omega} 1 \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}}$ . It follows from Lemma 2.1(ii) and (2.26) that

$$\begin{aligned} &\int_{\Omega} \left[ |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 - \frac{n}{2} (\operatorname{tr} h)^2 \right] \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ &\geq \left( 1 - \frac{n}{2\mu(\delta)} \right) \int_{\Omega} |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ (2.27) \quad &- C \left[ \int_{\Omega} (R(g) - R(\bar{g})) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + 2 \int_{\Sigma} (H(g) - H(\bar{g})) \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right]^2 \\ &- C \left[ \int_{\Omega} (|h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla}h|^2) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} (|h|^2 + |h| |\bar{\nabla}h| \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}}) \right]^2 \end{aligned}$$

for a positive constant  $C$  depending only on  $(\Omega, \bar{g})$ . The lemma now follows from (2.25), (2.27) and the fact  $\lambda \leq 1$ .  $\square$

The following lemma is needed for the statement of Theorem 2.3.

**Lemma 2.3.** *On  $(0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ , define*

$$\alpha(\delta) = \left[ 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{n}{2\mu(\delta)} \right) \cos \delta \right]^{-1} \frac{(n+1)}{8n}$$

and

$$F(\delta) = \alpha(\delta) + \frac{(n+3) \cos^2 \delta - 4}{4 \sin^2 \delta}.$$

Then

- (i)  $\alpha(\delta)$  is strictly decreasing,  $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0+} \alpha(\delta) = \infty$  and  $\alpha(\frac{\pi}{2}) = \frac{n+1}{8n}$ .
- (ii)  $F(\delta)$  is strictly decreasing,  $\lim_{\delta \rightarrow 0+} F(\delta) = \infty$  and  $F(\frac{\pi}{2}) < 0$ .  
Hence there is exactly one  $\delta_0 \in (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$  such that  $F(\delta_0) = 0$ .
- (iii)  $\cos \delta_0 > \kappa$  where  $\kappa$  is the positive root of the equation

$$2n(n+3)x^2 + (n+1)x + (1-7n) = 0.$$

In particular,  $(\cos \delta_0)^2 > \frac{1}{n+1}$ .

*Proof.* (i) follows directly from Lemma 2.2. (ii) follows from (i) and the fact

$$F(\delta) = \alpha(\delta) + \frac{n-1}{4} \frac{1}{\sin^2 \delta} - \frac{n+3}{4}.$$

To prove (iii), suppose  $\cos \delta_0 = a$ . Since  $0 < 1 - \frac{n}{2\mu(\delta_0)} < 1$ , one has  $\left(1 - \frac{n}{2\mu(\delta_0)}\right) \cos \delta_0 < a$  and  $\alpha(\delta_0) < \frac{n+1}{8n} \frac{1}{(1-a)}$ . Therefore,

$$0 = F(\delta_0) < \frac{n+1}{8n} \frac{1}{(1-a)} + \frac{n-1}{4} \frac{1}{1-a^2} - \frac{n+3}{4}$$

which implies (iii).  $\square$

**Theorem 2.3.** *Let  $\Omega = B(\delta)$  be a geodesic ball of radius  $\delta$  in  $\mathbb{S}^n$ . Suppose  $\delta < \delta_0$ , where  $\delta_0$  is the unique zero in  $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$  of the function*

$$F(\delta) = \alpha(\delta) + \frac{(n+3) \cos^2 \delta - 4}{4 \sin^2 \delta}$$

where  $\alpha(\delta) = \left[1 - \left(1 - \frac{n}{2\mu(\delta)}\right) \cos \delta\right]^{-1} \frac{(n+1)}{8n}$ . Then the conclusion of Theorem 1.1 holds on  $\Omega$ .

*Proof.* Let  $W(h)$  be given in (2.4). Let  $c = \cos \delta$ . Lemma 2.3(iii) shows  $c^2 > \frac{1}{n+1}$ . Hence, the coefficient of  $|X|^2$  in  $W(h)$  is nonnegative. By Theorem 1.1, it suffices to assume  $c^2 < \frac{4}{n+3}$ . Apply Proposition 2.2, we have

(2.28)

$$\begin{aligned} W(h) \geq & \int_{\Omega} \left[ \frac{1}{4} (|\bar{\nabla} h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2) + \frac{1}{2} (|h|^2 + (\operatorname{tr} h)^2) \right] \lambda \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ & + \left[ \frac{(n+3)c^2 - 4}{4(1-c^2)} \right] 2 \left[ 1 - c \left( 1 - \frac{n}{2\mu(\delta)} \right) \right] \int_{\Omega} |\bar{\nabla}(\operatorname{tr} h)|^2 \lambda \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ & + \hat{E}(h, c), \end{aligned}$$

where

(2.29)

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{E}(h, c) = & \left[ \frac{(n+3)c^2 - 4}{4(1-c^2)} \right] \left\{ -2 \int_{\Omega} (\lambda - c)(\operatorname{tr} h)(R(g) - R(\bar{g})) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \right. \\ & + C \|h\|_{C^1} \left[ \int_{\Omega} (|h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla} h|^2) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} |h|^2 \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right] \\ & \left. + C \left[ \int_{\Omega} (R(g) - R(\bar{g})) \, d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} + 2 \int_{\Sigma} (H(g) - H(\bar{g})) \, d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right]^2 \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\delta < \delta_0$ , Lemma 2.3 (ii) implies

$$F(\delta) = \alpha(\delta) + \frac{(n+3)\cos^2\delta - 4}{4(1 - \cos^2\delta)} > F(\delta_0) = 0.$$

Hence there exists a small constant  $\epsilon \in (0, 1)$  such that

$$(2.30) \quad \frac{1}{4} \left( 1 + \frac{(1-\epsilon)}{n} \right) + \left[ \frac{(n+3)c^2 - 4}{4(1 - c^2)} \right] 2 \left[ 1 - c \left( 1 - \frac{n}{2\mu(\delta)} \right) \right] > 0.$$

By (2.28) and (2.30), using the fact  $|\bar{\nabla}h|^2 \geq \frac{1}{n}|\bar{\nabla}(\text{tr } h)|^2$ , we have

$$(2.31) \quad W(h) \geq \frac{1}{4}\epsilon c \int_{\Omega} (|\bar{\nabla}h|^2 + |h|^2) d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \hat{E}(h, c).$$

Now suppose  $R(g) - R(\bar{g}) \geq 0$ ,  $H(g) - H(\bar{g}) \geq 0$  and  $\|h\|_{W^{2,p}(\Omega)}$  is sufficiently small. It follows from Theorem 2.1, (2.29) and (2.31) that

$$(2.32) \quad \begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Omega} [R(g) - R(\bar{g})] \lambda d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \frac{1}{2} \int_{\Sigma} [H(g) - H(\bar{g})] \lambda d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \\ & \leq \epsilon \int_{\Omega} (|\bar{\nabla}h|^2 + |h|^2) d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ & \quad + C\|h\|_{C^1} \left[ \int_{\Omega} (|h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla}h|^2) d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} |h|^2 d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right]. \end{aligned}$$

for some positive constant  $C$  independent of  $h$ . We can then proceed as in [2]: since  $\|h\|_{L^2(\Sigma)} \leq C\|h\|_{W^{1,2}(\Omega)}$ , one knows the terms in the last line in (2.32) is bounded by  $C\|h\|_{C^1(\bar{\Omega})}\|h\|_{W^{1,2}(\Omega)}$ . Therefore, if  $\|h\|_{W^{2,p}(\Omega)}$  is sufficiently small, (2.32) implies  $h$  must vanish identically. This completes the proof of Theorem 2.3.  $\square$

We give some lower estimates of  $\delta_0$  which are relatively more explicit.

**Proposition 2.3.**  $\delta_0$  in Theorem 2.3 satisfies

(i)  $\delta_0 > \tilde{\delta}_0$  where  $\tilde{\delta}_0$  is the unique zero in  $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$  of the equation

$$\left[ 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{n}{2\tilde{\mu}(\delta)} \right) \cos \delta \right]^{-1} \frac{n+1}{8n} + \frac{(n+3)\cos^2\delta - 4}{4(1 - \cos^2\delta)} = 0$$

$$\text{where } \tilde{\mu}(\delta) = n + \frac{(\sin \delta)^{n-2} \cos \delta}{\int_0^\delta (\sin t)^{n-1} dt}.$$

(ii)  $\cos \delta_0 < \tilde{\kappa}$  where  $\tilde{\kappa}$  is the unique zero in  $(0, 1)$  of the equation

$$n(n+3)x^4 + n(n+3)x^3 + 2n(n+1)x^2 + (1-3n)x - 7n + 1 = 0.$$

(iii)  $(\cos \delta_0)^2 < \frac{7n-1}{2n^2+5n-1}$ .

*Proof.* By Lemma 2.2 (ii),  $\mu(\delta_0) > \tilde{\mu}(\delta_0)$ . Hence,

$$(2.33) \quad \left[ 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{n}{2\tilde{\mu}(\delta_0)} \right) \cos \delta_0 \right]^{-1} \frac{n+1}{8n} + \frac{(n+3) \cos^2 \delta_0 - 4}{4(1 - \cos^2 \delta_0)} < 0.$$

Note that  $\tilde{\mu}(\delta)$  is strictly decreasing in  $(0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$ . As in the proof of Lemma 2.3(ii), we know the function

$$\left[ 1 - \left( 1 - \frac{n}{2\tilde{\mu}(\delta)} \right) \cos \delta \right]^{-1} \frac{n+1}{8n} + \frac{(n+3) \cos^2 \delta - 4}{4(1 - \cos^2 \delta)}$$

is strictly decreasing and has a unique zero  $\tilde{\delta}_0$  in  $(0, \frac{\pi}{2})$ . Hence, (i) follows from (2.33).

The proof of (ii) is similar to that of (i) except we replace the lower bound  $\mu(\delta) > \tilde{\mu}(\delta)$  by a weaker lower bound  $\mu(\delta_0) > \frac{n}{(\sin \delta_0)^2} = \frac{n}{1 - (\cos \delta_0)^2}$ .

(iii) follows from the fact

$$\frac{n+1}{8n} + \frac{(n+3) \cos^2 \delta - 4}{4(1 - \cos^2 \delta)} < 0.$$

□

Theorem 2.3 and Proposition 2.3 (iii) verify condition **(b)** in the introduction.

**2.4. A Combined approach.** It remains to confirm the case  $n = 3, 4$  in condition **(a)**. To do so, we combine the two methods leading to Theorem 2.2 and Theorem 2.3.

**Theorem 2.4.** *Suppose  $3 \leq n \leq 4$ , Theorem 1.1 is true on  $B(\delta)$  if*

$$(2.34) \quad \cos \delta > \left( \frac{4(n+4) - 4\sqrt{2n-1}}{n^2 + 6n + 17} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \approx \begin{cases} 0.6581, & n = 3 \\ 0.6130, & n = 4. \end{cases}$$

*Proof.* Let  $c = \cos \delta$ . (2.34) implies  $c^2 > \frac{1}{n+1}$ . By (2.11), we have  $W(h) \geq Y(h)$  where

$$\begin{aligned} Y(h) = & \left[ c + \frac{(n+3)c^2 - 4}{4(1 - c^2)} \sqrt{2(1 - c^2)} \right] \int_{\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{2} |h|^2 + \frac{1}{4} |\bar{\nabla}(\text{tr } h)|^2 \right) d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\ & + \left[ \frac{1}{2} + \frac{(n+3)c^2 - 4}{4(1 - c^2)} \right] \int_{\Omega} \lambda(\text{tr } h)^2 d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \frac{c}{4} \int_{\Omega} |\bar{\nabla} h|^2 d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}}. \end{aligned}$$

Now (2.34) implies (2.12), i.e.

$$(2.35) \quad c + \frac{(n+3)c^2 - 4}{4(1 - c^2)} \sqrt{2(1 - c^2)} > 0.$$

To continue, we only need to assume  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{4(1-c^2)} < 0$ . (If  $n \geq 5$ , this term would be nonnegative by (2.16).)

Given any constants  $\theta, \tau \in (0, 1)$ , using the fact  $|\bar{\nabla}h|^2 \geq \frac{1}{n}|\bar{\nabla}(\text{tr } h)|^2$ ,  $|h|^2 \geq \frac{1}{n}(\text{tr } h)^2$ ,  $\lambda \leq 1$  and applying (2.26) as in Theorem 2.3, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
Y(h) &\geq \int_{\Omega} \left\{ \frac{\theta c}{4} |\bar{\nabla}h|^2 + \frac{1}{4} \left[ \frac{1-\theta}{n} c + c + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2\sqrt{2(1-c^2)}} \right] |\bar{\nabla}(\text{tr } h)|^2 \right. \\
&\quad + \tau \left[ c + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2\sqrt{2(1-c^2)}} \right] \frac{|h|^2}{2} + \frac{1-\tau}{n} \left[ c + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2\sqrt{2(1-c^2)}} \right] \frac{(\text{tr } h)^2}{2} \\
&\quad \left. + \left[ 1 + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2(1-c^2)} \right] \frac{(\text{tr } h)^2}{2} \right\} d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} \\
&\geq \epsilon \left( \int_{\Omega} |\bar{\nabla}h|^2 + |h|^2 d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} \right) \\
&\quad + \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{(n+1)-\theta}{n} c + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2\sqrt{2(1-c^2)}} \right] \mu(\delta) + \frac{1-\tau}{n} \left[ c + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2\sqrt{2(1-c^2)}} \right] \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \left[ 1 + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2(1-c^2)} \right] \right\} \left( \int_{\Omega} \frac{(\text{tr } h)^2}{2} d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} \right) + E(h)
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\epsilon = \min \left\{ \frac{\theta c}{4}, \frac{\tau}{2} \left[ c + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2\sqrt{2(1-c^2)}} \right] \right\} > 0$ ,  $\mu(\delta)$  is the first nonzero

Neumann eigenvalue of  $B(\delta)$ , and  $E(h)$  is an error term satisfying

$$\begin{aligned}
|E(h)| &\leq C \left[ \int_{\Omega} (R(g) - R(\bar{g})) d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} + 2 \int_{\Sigma} (H(g) - H(\bar{g})) d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right]^2 \\
&\quad + C \left[ \int_{\Omega} (|h|^2 + |\bar{\nabla}h|^2) d\text{vol}_{\bar{g}} + \int_{\Sigma} (|h|^2 + |h||\bar{\nabla}h|) d\sigma_{\bar{g}} \right]^2
\end{aligned}$$

with  $C$  depending only on  $B(\delta)$ .

Apply the eigenvalue estimate  $\mu(\delta) > \frac{n}{(\sin \delta)^2} = \frac{n}{1-c^2}$  (Lemma 2.2 (ii)), one checks (using *Mathematica*) that

$$\begin{aligned}
(2.37) \quad 0 &< \frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{n+1}{n} c + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2\sqrt{2(1-c^2)}} \right] \mu(\delta) + \frac{1}{n} \left[ c + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2\sqrt{2(1-c^2)}} \right] \\
&\quad + \left[ 1 + \frac{(n+3)c^2-4}{2(1-c^2)} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

for  $1 > c > 0.6378$  when  $n = 3$  and for  $1 > c > 0.5933$  when  $n = 4$ . In particular, (2.37) is guaranteed by (2.34).

Therefore, there exist small positive constants  $\theta$ ,  $\tau$  such that the coefficient of  $\int_{\Omega} \frac{(\operatorname{tr} h)^2}{2} d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}}$  in (2.36) is positive. For these  $\theta$  and  $\tau$ , we have

$$W(h) \geq Y(h) \geq \epsilon \left( \int_{\Omega} |\bar{\nabla} h|^2 + |h|^2 d\operatorname{vol}_{\bar{g}} \right) + E(h).$$

Arguing as in the proof of Theorem 2.3 (the part following (2.31)), we conclude that Theorem 1.1 holds on such a  $B(\delta)$ .  $\square$

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